



State of Washington  
Commission on African American Affairs  
Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs  
Commission on Hispanic affairs

**Joint Commission Meeting**  
**February 6, 2004**  
**General Administration Building, Room G3**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Attendance**

Commissioners:

Diana Avalos, Gabriel Banfi, Faviola Barbosa, Darrell Fields, Leo Gaeta, Uriel Iñiguez, Elliot Kim, Zelma Jackson-Maine, Malcolm H. Oliver, Edna Brooks-Pittman, Gabriel Portugal, Bill Reed, Homero Tamez, Rebecca Villareal, Thuy Vu, Yvonne Kinoshita Ward, Victoria Woodards

Staff:

Ellen Abellera, Vita Echeverria, Antonio Ginatta, Regina Jones, Ryan Minato, Tamara Pinero, Ed Prince

Guests:

Peter Antolin, Tom Fitzsimmons, Maralise Hood (Legislative Assistant to Rep. Flannigan), Governor Gary Locke, MaryAnne McCurdy, Diane Prigge, Julio Quan, Stacey Suan Tichenor, Kelly Wicker

Not in attendance:

Nancy Biery – excused

**Call to order 8:55 AM**

**Governor Gary Locke**

**Opening remarks**

- Congratulations to Commissions for a successful Legislative reception.
- Thank you to the Commissions for support of the budget.
- Looking forward to the Diversity Business Symposium (DBS) report.

**Overview of diversity in the State**

- 500 percent increase in hiring of ethnic state workers.
- Increase of women in the work place.
- Large diversity increases in the court system.
- Directors, Commissioners & Boards should be recruited based on quality, breaking down barriers by diversifying.
- Affirmative Action should not necessarily be used to place minorities in higher education but also to place minorities in top-level management positions where they can be role models.

## **Education**

### WASL issues

- One chance to pass as sophomore in 2006, leaving many people of color unable to graduate in 2008.
- Suggests alternate testing methods, taking into account cultural differences and allowing retakes to master the material.

### Programs and their funding

- Funding for school programs should be available before student failure and be based on demographics and income.
- Sales tax increase of one penny currently before the Legislature. If Legislature votes it down, then signatures will be collected to create an initiative for the November ballot.
- Focus areas: parent involvement programs, all day Kindergarten, double the pre-school programs, and reduce class size.

### Increasing opportunities

- Targeted high school funding for counseling and extra pay for exceptional teachers, such as National Board Certified and teachers who will accept positions in struggling schools.
- Incentives for high school students to enter college to become teachers.
- The goal is to create space and hire more instructors in order to expand the number of high school graduates going to college by 25,000.
- Propose that top 30 percent of every high school graduating class receive \$1,600 for two years at a two-year or four-year state or community college, versus the current top 15 percent of every high school graduating class receiving \$800 a year.

## **Overview of focus areas**

- Poverty, business opportunities and State contracting, and education (e.g. struggling readers helped through Reading Core where volunteers in schools have made two-year gains in 6 to 8 months.)

## **Questions & Answers**

### Certificate of Mastery

**Q.** How will lawsuits against the State be handled regarding the 2008 deadline for certificate of mastery and what is the role of the Hispanic Commission during this time?

**A.** The Attorney General's Office will defend the state against lawsuits.

However, first there needs to be a change in the testing system:

- Streamline to the basics.
- Consider alternative forms of testing.
- Repeatable tests.
- Decrease the number of tests in the school system.
- Extra courses and programs.

The role of the Commissions is to appear in community to determine pass rate, for example, meeting with the A+ Committee.

### Standardized testing

**Q.** With as many as seven different tests, how can we address concerns that teachers are replacing important class topics with the preparation for these standardized tests?

**A.** Look for a merger between testing to form a common test, reducing the number of tests.

### Federal level legislation

**Q.** As a Commission, are we able to relate our concerns to the Federal level?

**A.** The Governor stated that involvement in federal issues is not only welcome but also expected because of the mission of the CHA to represent the Latino community at all levels of government.

### Non-profits

**Q.** How can non-profits be assisted as they struggle, following recent budget cuts?

**A.** Increase the reimbursements to non-profits that vend to the State.

### Small business

**Q.** How can we address the reduction of contracts to women and minority businesses after the passing of I-200?

**A.** Advise State agencies to take notice of women and minority business that are available to contract with.

### Healthcare insurance

**Q.** What can be done to advance healthcare?

**A.** Law changed to raise limit to 100,000 people funded in state. Health insurance stabilized and standards made easier for first-time holders and small businesses. Kids covered up to 250 percent above poverty level.

## **Tom Fitzsimmons, Chief of Staff**

Filling in for Bill Alkire.

### **Legislative Update**

#### Governor's priorities

- Research and development initiatives involving rural related tax incentives.
- Apprenticeship programs.
- Tax increment financing to decrease tax and increase business development and ultimately job development.
- Reintroduction of bill to allow school levies to be authorized by majority vote (50 percent) versus supermajority vote (60 percent). The supermajority requirement was established as a safeguard for property owners, since levy dollars come from property taxes.

#### State contracting

**Q.** How can we stop the loss of jobs to other states? (Perhaps State law should require that State contracts factor in total fiscal impact on the State.)

**A.** The State looks at net gain/loss when considering out-of-state contracting and in some cases it is the only option.

#### Labor issues

Concern was raised regarding the lack of structure to help families in Mexico despite the number of US companies setup to use the labor. There is a need to provide education and not just use the labor and move on to the next labor source.

#### Election Primary

Washington is interested in open primaries with the Governor leaning toward the Montana-style approach versus the Cajun approach.

**Q.** Is Legislature on time to address the Primary issue?

**A.** Situation may lead to no primary where a person with 20 to 30 percent of the votes wins office.

#### Healthcare

Reducing the cost of medical malpractice insurance without affecting citizen's ability to get fair compensation.

#### Budget

No guarantee of a supplemental budget and may revert to the biennium budget.

#### Personnel system

The Governor plans to make civil service modifications with a new set of rules for contracting out and labor negotiations over a master contract including wages. Rules proposed to be accepted by Nov./Dec. 2004.

**Q.** How can the Commissions be involved and influence the revamping of the personnel system?

**A.** Directors can join the OFM oversight committee and give feedback at a detailed level, meeting every 1-2 weeks. (Download a draft of the rules from the Washington Works website.)

## **Peter Antolin, Senior Budget Assistant to the Governor**

- Governor is intent on filling Board and Commission vacancies before the end of his term.
- Collaboration is important among the Commissions, for example, the DBS came as a result of Governor's focus on improving contracting last year.

#### Budget 05-07

- Next biennium budget in effect on July 1, 2005.
- Now is the time to identify priorities and resource needs.
- OFM staff will work with Commissions to outline strategy.
- State is faced with one billion dollar deficit with no rosy outlook.

**Q.** Can the RCW be changed to allow Commissions to fundraise without those funds being at risk during budget cuts?

**A.** Agencies need creative ways to fundraise, for example, with funds going to specific events and programs. However, the risk remains that successful fundraising may lead to a reduction in the general fund dollars for the fundraising agency

#### Rules for civil service reform

- Commissions should look at rules in draft and give feedback to General Administration. (Download a draft of the rules from the Washington Works website.)
- Rules do not go through Legislature except for the budgetary impact aspect.

## **Economic Development Diversity Initiative – OMWBE**

### **Diversity Business Symposium (DBS)**

- First DBS held in June 2003 with State agencies and community business owners.
- First collaboration between CHA, CAAA, CAPAA, GOIA, and OMWBE.
- 1.9 percent of State revenue is from minority owned businesses.

#### Initiatives

- Establish ad hoc advisory committee to monitor and report on progress of initiatives.
- Strengthen community outreach through Commissions and GOIA.
- Training for agency buyers by OMWBE.
- Monitor to ensure prompt payment for vendors and contractors.
- Form a minority and women business counsel made up of firms in the community to track legislation.
- Streamline OMWBE certification process.

**Q.** Why have non-profits not been covered in the DBS?

**A.** Non-profits will be a priority at a later time.

### **Minority business**

- Should look into Historically Underutilized Business (HUB).
- I-200 had a chilling effect despite E.O. 9801 to bring in agency contracts from minority businesses to compete fairly.
- Focus should be on contracts under \$3,000 since this makes up 80 percent of contracts.
- A directory of minority businesses should be created to supplement OMWBE's list, but without the burden of certification. Need commissioners to play a large role in creating directory with Executive Directors disseminating the directory.
- Get General Administration to send to Commissions a notice of work with significant fiscal impact. Fiscal impact should also be submitted as part of each bid. Need legal opinion on State's ability to implement.
- Involve Commissions in planning of Master Contract for State contracting.

### **Next Steps / Action Items**

- 1) Provide a directory of Commission member to be used to collaborate on issues (collect before Monday).
- 2) Work with labor groups for State contracting.
- 3) Commissions should make note of cases of where police are involved in racial profiling. This will supplement the data collected on the Washington State Patrol involved in racial profiling.
- 4) Executive Directors are asked to actively support voter registration efforts.
- 5) Create a list-serve that covers all three Commissions (two-week deadline).
- 6) Suggestion of second joint meeting each year, starting with May or November 2004.

#### Notes

- Insure the invitation of GOIA to future joint meetings.
- Have minutes completed by the end of next week.

**Adjournment 12:10 PM**